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Although his life work lay in another field, Dr. McCarthy possessed historical talent of a high order. He was a diligent collector of data in fields seemingly far removed from his regular work. Thus, he was a careful student of the race problem in America, and accumulated a large amount of data bearing on this subject. He was for many years a member of the State Historical Society.

The Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution of Washington is collecting the material for an edition, in several volumes, of the correspondence of Andrew Jackson, to be edited by Professor John S. Bassett of Smith College, Jackson's biographer. All persons who possess letters of General Jackson or important letters to him, or who know where there are collections of his correspondence, or even single letters, would confer a favor by writing to Dr. J. F. Jameson, director of the department named, 1140 Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.

THE KELLY DIARIES

The Society has recently come into possession of the diaries of Mrs. Jane B. Kelly of Dane County, extending in time from 1866 to 1898 with only a few omissions. These little volumes record the life of a plain country woman, whose days were made up of hard work, who was often tired, and frequently anxious about her family and friends. The writer was a woman of deep piety and real religious experience; the quarterly meetings of the Methodist Church to which she belonged were times of refreshment for her spirit. Later in life she attended the Monona Assembly, heard the concerts and lectures there given, and gives her impressions of lecturers like Neal Dow, Frances Willard, Schuyler Colfax, and others. From these diaries we may learn the routine of life for women on a farm fifty years ago. The prices of farm products and clothing may also be garnered from these volumes. Best of all they record the home life of true and virtuous people of the middle class that rear children to strengthen all that is valuable in the civilization of our community and state.

Wisconsin. By J. F. A. Pyre. New York. Oxford University Press, American Branch. 1920. 419p.

The University of Wisconsin is doubly the child of fortune: First, in having so significant a history to narrate and interpret; and second, in having a historian who is equal to the requirements which that history imposes upon its narrator and interpreter. Professor Pyre has produced a real book—a book which combines in an uncommon degree accurate, painstaking research, sound reflection, insight, and artistic treatment. These qualities should place the work among the permanent possessions of historical literature along with Thwaites's *Wisconsin* and Turner's *Rise of the New West*, to mention only two of the books which have grown out of this fruitful historical soil.

Professor Pyre arranges his material under twelve chapter heads, as follows: 1. The State; 2. Anniversaries and Origins; 3. The Town and the Campus; 4. The Days of the Chancellors; 5. Bucolics; 6. War Times; 7. The New Era; 8. John Bascom; 9. Growing Up; 10. Towards a University; 11. Student Life; 12. Under Van Hise. There are two brief appendixes, relating the one to attendance from 1900 to 1918, the other to the University buildings; and an excellent index. The illustrations, which number only thirteen, are carefully chosen, well executed, and so aptly distributed as not merely to confirm but to enhance the impression of good taste and artistry which pervades the volume.

A son of Wisconsin pioneers, the author can sympathize with the bustling, optimistic, enterprising spirit of the people and the somewhat narrow, ungenerous opportunities of the pioneer age. But it would be hard to find, in equal space, a better historical interpretation of the society which created the University, for which the University wrought, between which and the institution, in the course of a parallel development, there has been so marked an interplay and reciprocity of influences. It was a society, says the author, in which "not only did everyone work, but almost everyone worked with his hands and almost everyone worked for himself," a true characterization which has large significance for the story that follows.

In his discussion of the historical origins of the State University, the land grant policy, the management of the University lands, the growth of the sentiment of state responsibility for the institution, and the comparative educational policies of Wisconsin and other western states, the author reflects the extent and thoroughness of his research. His familiarity with general educational and social history impresses a quality of *intelligence* upon every page and paragraph of the book.

But there are some high lights: Among these I presume most readers would agree in selecting for special commendation the characterizations of Bascom and of Van Hise. The early chancellors, Lathrop, Chadbourne, the unfortunate Twombly are well done notwithstanding the paucity of data the author had to work from. If his brief and not too sympathetic disposal of Barnard hints a doubt whether the author really understood that distinguished educator, one is quickly reminded that, after all, this treatment throws his chancellorship in proper perspective so far as its influence on the history of the University is concerned. That is one secret of the author's success. It is partly because he makes his portraits of Bascom and Van Hise fit so perfectly into the niches these presidents carved for themselves in the University not built with hands that they appear so admirable. In this book the artist always charms; but artistry is only one of its excellencies. The essay on Bascom, for instance, is a brilliant exercise in interpretative biography; and the same can be said, though with somewhat diminished confidence, of the essay on Van Hise. Chamberlin and Adams, less noteworthy for the results they achieved, occupy a correspondingly lower plane in the reader's consciousness though each is painted for us in true and strong colors.

Thus far we have been speaking of qualities in this book which will appeal to readers of every class. But it has another outstanding excellence in that it also satisfies so fully the desire for minute local information on the part of the thousands of graduates and students of the University. The evolution of the campus is traced step by step, from the purchase of the Vanderpoel tract and the erection of South Hall to the recent acquisitions of land along the lake shore, beyond University Bay, and the erection of the Home Economics and University Extension Building. The facts are so inwoven in the narrative as not to vitiate the literary plan of the work or oppress the reader who may be a stranger to the "Hill." If in this the author manifests his love of beauty in landscapes and his appreciation of taste in architecture, he evinces none the less a shrewd enough interest in the purely business aspects of this material development to satisfy the most exacting economist.

In the case of a book like this one, whose dimensions and scope were probably fixed in advance, a criticism of the contents on the score of incompleteness may be unfair. The author was obliged perforce to omit many interesting subjects for want of space. The only question between the reviewer and the author is whether some matters are so important that space ought to have been found for them even if it became necessary to treat some of the included subjects more summarily.

I think there are two, and perhaps three, subjects that deserved space at any reasonable cost. First among these is a study of the student constituency of the old college under the early chancellors. Who were those men? Were they sons of ministers, doctors, lawyers, farmers, merchants? What was their social and intellectual heritage, what the immediate environments from which they came? And what of the early fitting schools and the preceptors who had charge of these youths? A local study of that sort would have great significance for the history of higher education generally as well as for the history of Wisconsin's state university.

One would be grateful, also, for a few pages more on the evolution of the public educational system, especially the high school, upon which the growth from college to university, so far as constituency goes, really pivots. And, corresponding to this outside influence, a study of the work of more of the great teachers and scholars of the institution in its several periods would obviously be desirable. Mr. Pyre of course recognizes that chancellors and presidents do not, of themselves, make a university, but his plan of treatment tempts him into a somewhat exclusive emphasis upon the policies and performances of these to the neglect of others who wrought perhaps quite as effectively. No one who was familiar with the University of Wisconsin during its period of rapid expansion, say the last forty or forty-five years, will deny that it owes as much to two of its deans, Dean Birge (now president) and Dean Henry, as it owes to its presidents. I suspect Mr. Pyre believes that. But it may be questioned if the uninitiated reader would gain that impression from his book.

Still less would the general reader gain an adequate notion of the process by which the scholarly, intellectual life of the institution was gradually enriched through the contributions of a series of great teachers and scholars. Some of these are sketched for him in a delightful manner, as, for example, Dr. Stearns and his Socratic method. But these sketches are all too few and the book seems to lack a definite purpose to reveal the process of inner development in a systematic way, though, to be sure, much of this is presented incidentally.

It is easy for one who is familiar with the type of quiet scholar and teacher to appreciate with what emotions Professor Pyre reacted to the "hideous racket" made by the new extension movement. The wonder is that such a man was able to deal with this movement, indeed with the Van Hise régime generally, in a spirit of fairness and impartiality. This Professor Pyre does, though of course there will be two opinions on the question whether or not it was possible for him to do full justice to the Van Hise policies about which he permits himself so many doubts.

JOSEPH SCHAFER

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

General Charles King ("Rufus King: Soldier, Editor, and Statesman"), son of the pioneer whose career he sketches, became a resident of the Badger State in 1845. A soldier by profession, he has won widespread renown by his use of the pen.

Laurence M. Larson ("The Kensington Rune Stone") is a professor of history in the University of Illinois and an authority of high standing in the field of Scandinavian history.

John S. Roeseler ("The Evangelical Association of Lomira Circuit") has written much upon the history of this, his native locality. For a quarter of a century after his graduation from the University of Wisconsin Mr. Roeseler was engaged in public school work as principal or superintendent at different points in the state.

Louise P. Kellogg ("The First Missionary in Wisconsin") is senior research associate of the State Historical Society. In the present study she presents certain new conclusions concerning the Wisconsin career of Father Ménard.

W. A. Titus ("Two Graves in a Rural Wisconsin Cemetery") of Fond du Lac has been a frequent contributor to the columns of this magazine.

THE WIDER FIELD

The Illinois Country, 1673-1818. By Clarence W. Alvord. [Centennial History of Illinois, Vol. I.] (Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission. 192 xx, 524p.)

In the March, 1920 issue of this magazine was given some account of the *Centennial History of Illinois*, together with reviews of three of the volumes in the series. The following review of the initial volume